

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 NASA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OES-03 INRE-00 SAJ-01 IOE-00 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00

PRS-01 PA-01 BIB-01 CU-02 EA-06 CCO-00 OTPE-00 EB-07

FCC-01 OC-05 COME-00 H-01 /092 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0599

DEPARTMENT PASS NASA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA,UN

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE--SOVIET DOMESTIC
DBS PLANS

SUMMARY: SOVIET DELOFF APPROACHED USDEL INDICATING
SOVIET MOTIVATIONS ON DBS CONVENTION ARE TIED DIRECTLY
TO NATIONAL PLAN TO INTRODUCE OPERATIONAL DBS SYSTEM IN
5 TO 7 YEARS. SOVIET DELOFF INDICATED "SINCERE FEARS"
OF RETURN TO RADIO BROADCASTING PRACTICE OF 1950'S AND
1960'S AND INDICATED SOVIET REQUIREMENT FOR ASSURANCES
OF NONABUSE OF THEIR PLANNED DOMESTIC SYSTEM.

1. BACKGROUND: ON FEB 25 SOVIET SPOKESMAN ON DBS
(YURI KOLOSSOV, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) OPENED
SOVIET DISCUSSION ON QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY BY DECLAR-
ING FUNDAMENTAL INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF STATE
SOVEREIGNTY AS ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL
LAW IS IN CONTRAST TO STATUS AS "POLITICAL SLOGAN" OF
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THE CONCEPT OF FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION. SOVS URGED

PRINCIPLE OF SOVEREIGNTY COULD NOT BE BALANCED BY SUCH NONFORMAL CONCEPT AS FREE FLOW. AS EXAMPLE, KOLOSSOV HYPOTHESIZED A SOV SATELLITE SYSTEM ATTEMPTING TO BEAM DIRECT TELEVISION PROGRAM INTO AUSTRALIA, DECLARING THAT SUCH ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT OF AUSTRALIA WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF AUSTRALIAN SOVEREIGNTY AND OTHERWISE INDEFENSIBLE.

2. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION AT EVENING SOCIAL US DELOFF (DOYLE) APPROACHED KOLOSSOV TO EXPLAIN THAT CURRENT INTERNATIONAL LAW CONTAINED ITU CONVENTION AND RADIO REGULATIONS WOULD MAKE HIS EXAMPLE OF BROADCASTING INTO AUSTRALIA WITHOUT CONSENT AN IMPROPERLY CONDUCTED ACTIVITY UNDER CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY ARTICLE 7, PARAGRAPH 428A OF ITU RADIO REGS. UNLESS THE ILLUMINATIONS OF AUSTRALIA BY THE SATELLITE SIGNAL COULD BE DEMONSTRATED TO BE "UNAVOIDABLE WITHIN THE PRESENT STATE OF THE ART" THE ITU REGULATIONS WOULD REQUIRE PRIOR AGREEMENT BY AUSTRALIA TO SUCH BROADCAST ACTIVITIES. UNITED STATES POLICY HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN THAT SUCH AGREEMENT COULD BE REFUSED ONLY ON TECHNICAL INTERFERENCE GROUNDS, WITHOUT REGARD TO PROGRAM CONTENT. TO THIS EXTENT A LIMITED APPLICATION OF THE PRIOR CONSENT PRINCIPLE EXISTS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW WITH REGARD TO RADIO TECHNICAL COORDINATION. DOYLE INDICATED THAT THE RUSSIAN INSISTENCE THAT QUESTIONS OF PROGRAM CONTENT, CULTURAL, POLITICAL, OR OTHER IMPACTS SHOULD BE THE BASIS OF EXTENDING OR DENYING CONSENT IS INAPPLICABLE TO THE US BECAUSE SUCH EXTERNAL ESTABLISHED CONSTRAINTS GIVE RISE TO SERIOUS INTERNAL CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS IN THE US. KOLOSSOV THEN ASKED FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A PRIVATE INFORMAL AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS PRIOR TO THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON FEB 26 AT WHICH TIME KOLOSSOV INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE OF THE SOVIET POSITION.

3. ON THE MORNING OF FEB 26 DOYLE MET KOLOSSOV IN THE MEETING ROOM AND KOLOSSOV VOLUNTEERED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE A WELL REHEARSED STATEMENT. KOLOSSOV EXPRESSLY INDICATED AGAIN THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS PRIVATE AND INFORMAL. HE SAID THE USSE CONFIDENTIAL

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CURRENTLY PLANS AN OPERATIONAL DOMESTIC DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE SYSTEM WITHIN THE NEXT 5 TO 7 YEARS. RECEIVING TECHNOLOGY IS IN HAND AND PRODUCTION OF NEW SATELLITE HOME RECEIVERS IS GOING FORWARD. HE MENTIONED A TASS PRESS RELEASE ON THE SUBJECT SOME MONTHS AGO (SEE TASS NEWS FILE FOR FIRST WEEK OF JULY 1974). KOLOSSOV SAID SATELLITE CAPABILITIES ARE BEING DEVELOPED INCLUDING THE RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO ESTABLISH

GEOSYNCHRONOUS SATELLITES. IN LOEWS VOICE HE STATED THAT "SOVIET SINCERE CONCERNS ARE ABOUT ABUSE OF A DBS SYSTEM ONCE PUT IN PLACE". KOLOSSOV REFERRED TO THE HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RADIO PRACTICES AND SAID THE USSR WANTS TO AVOID TOTALLY SUCH PRACTICES USING SATELLITES IN THE FUTURE. HE NOTED THAT JAMMING OF SATELLITE BROADCASTING WOULD BE VERY EXPENSIVE AND VERY DIFFICULT AND CONCLUDED BY POINTING OUT THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE AND NEEDS TO HAVE INTERNATIONAL ASSURANCES ON NONABUSE. HE SAID THE STRONG PUSH FOR A CONVENTION TO RESTRICT ABUSES IS THE NATURAL RESULT OF RADIO BROADCASTING HISTORY.

4. USDEL INDICATED THAT INsofar AS THE US AND THE USSR HAD ALREADY AGREED AS COSIGNATORIES OF THE ITU RADIO REGULATIONS, THE CONCERNS BEING EXPRESSED BY THE USSR APPEARED TO BE GENERALLY MET BY THE EXPLANATION OF PARA 428A. ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT BROADCASTING INTO A DOMESTIC OPERATING DBS SYSTEM WITHOUT AGREEMENT WOULD CERTAINLY BE BEHAVING IN A MANNER CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT IF NOT THE LETTER OF THE ITU RADIO REGULATIONS. HOWEVER, DOYLE POINTED OUT INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OF SUCH ACTIVITY AND REDRESS OF ABUSES WOULD BE ON LESS CONTROVERSIAL AND MORE MANAGEABLE GROUNDS IF RESTRICTED EXCLUSIVELY TO RADIO TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, AVOIDING PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH PHRASES SUCH AS "OBJECTIONABLE RPGRAMMEING, POLITICAL PROPAGANDA, COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENT," AND OTHER SUCH VAGUE AND SOMETIMES UNDEFINABLE CONCEPTS.

5. DOYLE INDICATED HE WOULD REPORT THE CONVERSATION TO HIS DELEGATION AND WOULD OFFER ANY RESPONSE DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY HIS GOVERNMENT.

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6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEL WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE DEPT MAY SUGGEST FOR REPLY TO SOVIET DEL.
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